

Application No. 10/722,316
Amendment dated 09/20/2006
Reply to Office Action of July 7, 2006

03-ASD-159 (EM)

REMARKS

§ 103 rejection

Claims 7-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2004/0118166 to Ford et al. ("Ford") in view of common knowledge and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,157,026 to Meschenmoser ("Meschenmoser"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner was not persuaded by Applicant's arguments in the previous response asserting that "[t]he term 'projection' is a protruding thing. The two sections sandwiched the recess 27 are considered as protruding" (p. 6). Although Applicant respectfully disagrees, Applicant has amended independent claim 7 to clarify that the assembly has a pair of discrete projections. As noted in the previous response, the block 19 in Meschenmoser cannot be considered a pair of discrete projections because, as clearly shown in Figure 5, the block 19 is a single piece with a recess 27 that extends only partly across the block 19 without dividing the block 19 in two (page 2, lines 115-120).

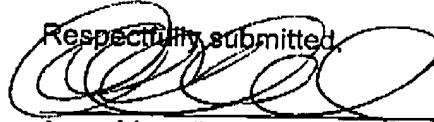
Neither Meschenmoser nor Ford suggest an assembly with two discrete projections. Moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been led to modify the recess 27 in Meschenmoser to form the claimed pair of discrete projections because doing so would compromise the positioning and alignment function provided by the recess 27, which were deemed an important feature by Meschenmoser. The combination of Ford and Meschenmoser therefore fails to render the claimed invention obvious. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-16 is respectfully requested.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 05-0275.

Respectfully submitted,



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